

CLAIMS

1. The S gene for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.
2. A diagnostic test method for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, comprising the steps of:
 - i) taking a sample from said patient;
 - ii) comparing the sequence of the S gene of said patient to that of an S gene causing a predetermined susceptibility to psoriasis; and
 - iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the susceptibility of said patient to psoriasis.
3. A diagnostic method according to claim 2, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
4. A diagnostic method according to either one of claims 2 or 3, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
5. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-5, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a C nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.

6. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-5, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 618, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
7. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-6, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a C nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
8. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-7, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a G nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
9. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-8, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a C nucleotide at position 1243.
10. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-9, comparison step (ii) comprising determining whether the S gene has a T nucleotide at position 619, a T nucleotide at position 1240 and a T nucleotide at position 1243.
11. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-10, comparison step (ii) comprising the step of performing PCR using discriminatory primers for nucleotide substitutions at positions 619, 1240 and 1243 and comparing the result to those obtained with an S gene causing a predetermined susceptibility to psoriasis.
12. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-11, comparison step (ii) comprising determining the sequence of the S gene at position 1236 and/or position 1215.

13. A diagnostic test method according to any one of claims 2-12, comparison step (ii) comprising determining the sequence of the S gene at one or more of positions 9, 66, 614, 619, 722, 767, 971, 1118, 1215, 1236, 1243, 1331, and 1358.
14. A pair of PCR primers having the sequences of any one of the group of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 5, 1 and 6, 2 and 5, 2 and 6, 1 and 7, 1 and 8, 3 and 5, 3 and 6, 4 and 5, 4 and 6, 3 and 7, 3 and 8, 4 and 7, 4 and 8, 1 and 9, 2 and 9, 1 and 10, 2 and 10, 3 and 9, 4 and 9, 3 and 10, 4 and 10.
15. A diagnostic test kit for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, characterised in that it comprises at least one pair of PCR primers according to claim 12.
16. The use of a pair of PCR primers according to claim 14 in the manufacture of a diagnostic test kit for susceptibility to psoriasis.
17. The use of the S gene in the manufacture of a diagnostic test for psoriasis.
18. The use of the S gene in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis.
19. A method of manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis, characterised in the use of the S gene.
20. The corneodesmosin protein or an immunogenic fragment thereof for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of the human or animal body.
21. A diagnostic test method for psoriasis, comprising the steps of:

- i) taking a sample from a patient;
- ii) comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample; and
- iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the presence of psoriasis in said patient.

22. A diagnostic test method for determining the susceptibility of a patient to psoriasis, comprising the steps of:

- i) taking a sample from a patient;
- ii) comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample; and
- iii) correlating the results of comparison step (ii) to determine the susceptibility to psoriasis in said patient.

23. A diagnostic test method according to either one of claims 21 or 22, the step of comparing the expression pattern of corneodesmosin protein in said sample to that of a control sample comprising determining whether an epitope displayed by the expression product of a mutant S gene and not displayed by the expression product of a non-mutant S gene is present in said patient sample.

24. A diagnostic test kit for psoriasis or susceptibility to same, characterised in that it comprises antibody specific against corneodesmosin.

25. The use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same in the manufacture of a diagnostic test kit for psoriasis or susceptibility to same.
26. The use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of psoriasis.
27. A method of manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis, characterised in the use of corneodesmosin or antibody specific against same.